

# Suspended Sheriff Bryant Asks For Speedy Trial

## Russell Appoints Jordan To Office

By LEVERNE PROSSER  
Roving Reporter

FLORENCE — In fast moving developments, Darlington County yesterday got a new sheriff, heard professions of innocence on charges of violating liquor laws from suspended Sheriff Grover C. Bryant Jr., and was subjected to new probes by Federal Alcohol Tobacco Tax Division (ATTD) agents.

Sheriff Bryant shortly after hearing he had been suspended from office by Gov. Donald Russell issued a statement asking for "a speedy trial." He said it will clear him of all charges of conspiracy in connection with wide-spread illicit moonshine operations in Darlington County.

Sheriff Bryant, through legal counsel, said an indictment alleging he and five other persons engaged in 45 overt acts in violation of federal and state liquor statutes issued by a federal grand jury at Aiken Wednesday is the result of his enforcing the law.

The suspended law enforcement officer said he wanted early court action in his case to permit his active campaigning for re-election to another four years in office. He has been Darlington County's sheriff since 1956.

Gov. Russell, in the presence of Darlington County Sen. James P. (Spot) Moringo called a special press conference yesterday to announce he had suspended Sheriff Bryant from office "in the best interests of both Darlington County and the sheriff himself."

The governor immediately announced with the advice and consent of Sen. Moringo the appointment of former Darlington County manager and tax collector Herbert L. (Hub) Jordan as the county's new sheriff.

"Mr. Jordan is one of the best



Saturday March 24, 1964 3-A

CONWAY BUREAU  
Jack O'Keefe Tel. 243-5963

COLUMBIA BUREAU  
Hugh Gibson Tel. AL 2-9108

BEAUFORT BUREAU  
Jim Felder Tel. 4-7325

FLORENCE BUREAU  
Leverne Prosser  
Tel. MO 2-5521

## Probe Continues In Alleged Car Theft Ring

SALUDA, N. C. (AP) — The FBI revealed Friday that the alleged car theft ring operating near here was also engaged in a fast automobile assembly job, completely rebuilding stolen vehicles.

Earlier reports said the ring, which the FBI charges was led by Ambrey DeWitt Allen Jr., 40, of Commerce, Ga., was dismantling stolen cars and selling the parts throughout Georgia.

It is believed that the ring was engaged in some auto parts deal, at the same time receiving from unknown sources special materials used in the rebuilding operations.

FBI reports indicated Friday that the stolen cars were rebuilt on different frames with serial plates removed so the cars could not be identified as having been stolen.

In another new development in the investigation of the alleged \$1 million car theft ring, a Spartanburg woman identified

a car in Hendersonville as one stolen from a Spartanburg parking lot Monday.

Mrs. Phyllis C. Leonhardt identified a 1962 Chevrolet, rebuilt on a different frame, as her vehicle. She used water stains, a broken defroster button and other marks to make an identification.

FBI agents said Friday they had not learned where the rebuilt cars were being sent, but they indicated their investigation is far from complete.

The ring, apparently specializing in late model Chevrolets, is said to have been operating out of a garage beside U.S. 170 between here and Tryon since last September.

Allen, his son, Danny, 21, Donald Jewett Meeler, 30, and William Moore Glenn, 25, are in Buncombe County jail in Asheville. The Allens are charged with unlawful flight and Meeler and Glenn are charged with harboring the Allens.